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## **INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS: THE PURSUIT OF DEFINITION**

Complex system of international relations directly influences internal and external processes that have been taking place within a particular state or a group of states. The processes, including those having complex conflict character, need to be comprehensively analyzed. In many respects such conflicts are generated by the conflict of interests of subjects of international law. Intention to satisfy certain interests may lead to international armed conflicts.

International armed conflicts have had their history. It is worth to mention that the systematic study of the conflicts was inherent to the past century when their number and scales had widely extended. Along with the scientific works on the subject matter there were passed appropriate international laws, such as the Geneva Convention, 1949, and the Two Amendment Protocols to it, 1977.

Active development of these complex processes needs special examination of the essence and signs of the conflicts under study and creation measures to stop and prevent them.

While analyzing international armed conflicts it is necessary to pay attention on conflicts that, on the one hand, have many common signs with the international armed conflicts, and, on the other hand, essentially differ from them. It is a question of the non-international (internal) armed conflicts. In order to define the concept and signs of such conflicts we need to consider real aims of the actions, a character of the actions, subjects of the actions, etc. It is made a statement that all the mentioned signs should be examined thoroughly in order both to determine the essence of the conflicts in question and to differentiate them from other kinds of conflicts.

Special attention is drawn to the necessity to evidence different kinds of damages incurred as a result of the conflicts. In the article it is also given a priority to the effective law protection of civilians and of various civil objects directly suffering during the conflicts.